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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/924,725	08/09/2001	Naoto Arakawa	35.C15674	3968

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EXAMINER	
LETT, THOMAS J	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2626	

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/924,725	ARAKAWA, NAOTO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thomas J. Lett	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *19 October 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *09 August 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 19 October 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the placeholding feature as taught by Pepin et al is not related to the concept of placing images at predetermined positions amongst data or "placemarking" as disclosed in the instant application. Examiner maintains that the placeholding feature of Pepin et al as analogous to the placemarking feature of the Applicant, as the apparatus of Pepin et al also arranges resources. Examiner would also like the Applicant to refer to col. 6, lines 19-35 of Pepin et al with regards to the job handling of images. Examiner notes that Pepin et al places images amongst the data in a print job. In addition, if the image data to be placed amongst the data is not available, the placeholding feature allows images to be placed when the image data becomes available(col. 9, lines 21-54).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pepin et al (USPN 6,151,131 A).

With respect to claim 1, Pepin et al disclose an image processing apparatus (printing system 2, see Fig. 1) having storing means (system memory 61, col. 7, lines 15-21) for storing the print data requested from an information processing apparatus (e.g., remote devices (scanners, printers, etc.) from network 5, col. 5, line 63 – col. 6, line 1), comprising:

input means (controller section 7, col. 6, lines 64-67) for inputting designation information for arranging plural image originals read by a scanner device at different predetermined positions of the print data respectively (image input section 4 uses network 5 for remote scan services col. 5, lines 63-67, and col. 6, lines 6-9); and

print processing means (printer section 8, col. 5, line 56) for effecting print processing of the print data and the read plural image originals on the basis of the information inputted by said input means (job program parameters received from system control 54 of controller section 7, col. 6, lines 64-67).

With respect to claim 2, Pepin et al disclose an image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined positions (processor 25c processes the digital image signals as required to enable controller section 7 to store and handle the image in the order required to carry out the job programmed, col. 6, lines 24-27) at which the image originals are arranged a front cover position and a back cover position of the print data (A finisher 120 is disclosed for forming books which would inherently

include arranging originals between a front and back cover of a book, col. 6, lines 53-63; A placeholder feature is also disclosed for page inserts, col. 9, line 64 – col. 10, line 2).

With respect to claim 3, Pepin et al disclose an image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein overlay processing (A placeholder feature is also disclosed for page inserts, col. 9, line 64 – col. 10, line 2) of an image original different from the image originals arranged at the front cover position and the back cover position (A finisher 120 is disclosed for forming books which would inherently include arranging originals between a front and back cover of a book, col. 6, lines 53-63; A placeholder feature is also disclosed for page inserts, col. 9, line 64 – col. 10, line 2) can further be effected with respect to the print data.

With respect to claim 4, Pepin et al disclose an image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein image originals different from the image originals (A placeholder feature is also disclosed for page inserts, col. 9, line 64 – col. 10, line 2. Examiner notes that these inserts may be different from the originals, and another segment (using a placeholder) may be inserted at step 235 of Fig. 9 of processing the job) arranged at the front cover position and the back cover position can further be arranged at reverse positions of the image originals arranged at the front cover position and the back cover position (Examiner also notes a "Covers" tab and covers" feature in the job program 62 of Fig. 6).

With respect to claim 5, Pepin et al disclose an image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein, when the image processing apparatus can effect both-face printing (a "Sides Imaged" feature is shown in Fig. 6 of job program 62), said input

means can input information (A placeholder feature is disclosed for page inserts, col. 9, line 64 – col. 10, line 2) for designating arrangement of the image originals at the front cover position and the back cover position or at reverse positions of the front cover position and the back cover position (Examiner also notes a "Covers" tab and covers" feature in the job program 62 of Fig. 6); and

when the image processing apparatus can effect only one-face printing (a "Sides Imaged" feature is shown in Fig. 6 of job program 62), said input means can input only information for designating arrangement of the image original at the front cover position (Examiner also notes a "Covers" tab and covers" feature in the job program 62 of Fig. 6).

With respect to claim 6, Pepin et al disclose an image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising count means for counting the number of the image originals (a page numbering feature is shown in the job program 62 of Fig. 6); and

judge means (a determination is made as to whether a function set is currently executable, col. 10, lines 20-25) for judging whether the print processing of the number of the image originals counted by said count means (page numbering feature is shown in the job program 62 of Fig. 6) can be effected on the basis of the information inputted by said input means.

With respect to claim 7, Pepin et al disclose an image processing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a display portion (UI 52 includes a combined operator controller/CRT display consisting of an interactive touchscreen 62, keyboard

64, and mouse 66, col. 7, lines 21-23) for displaying a condition of the image processing apparatus (UI 52 interfaces the operator with printing system 2, to obtain system operating information, and diagnostic information, col. 7, lines 21-28); and

display means (a combined operator controller/CRT display) for displaying information regarding the fact that the print processing is impossible on said display portion, when the print processing is impossible (UI 52 interfaces the operator with printing system 2, to obtain system operating information, and diagnostic information, col. 7, lines 21-28).

With respect to claim 8, Pepin et al disclose an image processing apparatus (printing system 2, see Fig. 1) having storing means (system memory 61, col. 7, lines 15-21) for storing the print data requested from an information processing apparatus, comprising:

first input means (controller section 7, col. 6, lines 64-67) for inputting information for designating print data to be print-processed among the print data stored in said storing means;

second input means (image input section 4 uses network 5 for remote scan services col. 5, lines 63-67, and col. 6, lines 6-9) for inputting information for designating arrangement of an image original read by a scanner device at a predetermined position of the print data; and

print processing means (printer section 8, col. 5, line 56) for effecting print processing of the designated print data and the read plural image originals on the basis

of the informations (job program parameters received from system control 54 of controller section 7, col. 6, lines 64-67) inputted by said first and second input means.

With respect to claim 9, Pepin et al disclose an image processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the predetermined position where the image original is designated and arranged (processor 25c processes the digital image signals as required to enable controller section 7 to store and handle the image in the order required to carry out the job programmed, col. 6, lines 24-27), inputted by said second input means, is a front cover position (A finisher 120 is disclosed for forming books which would inherently include arranging originals between a front and back cover of a book, col. 6, lines 53-63; A placeholder feature is also disclosed for page inserts, col. 9, line 64 – col. 10, line 2. (Examiner also notes a "Covers" tab and covers" feature in the job program 62 of Fig. 6)) of the print data.

With respect to claim 10, Pepin et al disclose an image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said second input means can further input information for designating arrangement of an image original different from the image original arranged at the front cover position at a back cover position of the print data (A finisher 120 is disclosed for forming books which would inherently include arranging originals between a front and back cover of a book, col. 6, lines 53-63; A placeholder feature is also disclosed for page inserts, col. 9, line 64 – col. 10, line 2).

With respect to claim 11, Pepin et al disclose an image processing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising

management means (a vehicle is provided to the user for creating placeholder instructions, col. 9, lines 41-51) for adding discrimination information (placeholder instructions) to the print data stored in said storing means (system memory 61, col. 7, lines 15-21) and for managing the print data;

read-out means for reading out (a provided framework is management operations which includes reviewing operations of processing, col. 9, lines 55-57) the print data to be print-processed and designated by said first input means from said management means as a print data selection list (reviewing operations of processing, col. 9, lines 55-57); and

display means (touchscreen 62 showing job selection features 150 and job instructions 152, col. 8, lines 10-17) for displaying the print data selection list read out by said read-out means.

With respect to claim 12, Pepin et al disclose an image processing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising update means (touchscreen 62 of Fig. 6 has a provision for printing and deleting a job to be processed) for deleting the print data print-processed by said print processing means from said storing means and for updating the information managed by said management means (a check is made to determine if all segments of a job are completed. If all segments are completed, the process updates to beginning a new job ticket, col. 10, lines 26-31).

Claim 13 a method claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 1.

Claim 14 a method claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 2.

Claim 15 a method claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 3.

Claim 16 a method claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 4.

Claim 17 a method claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 5.

Claim 18 a method claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 6.

Claim 19 a method claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 7.

Claim 20 a method claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 8.

Claim 21 a method claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 9.

Claim 22 a method claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 10.

Claim 23 a method claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 11.

Claim 24 a method claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 12.

Claim 25 a method claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 13.

Claim 26 a method claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 14.

With respect to claim 24, Pepin et al disclose a controlling method according to claim 20, further comprising a counting step for counting the number of the image originals read by said scanner device (a page numbering feature is shown in the job program 62 of Fig. 6); and

a judging step for judging whether the number of the image originals counted in said counting step coincides with the number of the image originals required for the print processing (a system would be provided for detecting potentially invalid combinations of operations on jobs which would report an exception to a user, col. 9, lines 60-63, and a determination is made as to whether a function set is currently executable, col. 10, lines 20-25) based on the information inputted in said second inputting step.

With respect to claim 25, Pepin et al disclose a controlling method according to claim 24, wherein said image processing apparatus has a display portion for displaying a condition of said image processing apparatus (UI 52 interfaces the operator with printing system 2, to obtain system operating information, and diagnostic information, col. 7, lines 21-28); and further comprising a displaying step for displaying the fact that the print processing is impossible on said display portion, as a result of judgement in said judging step, if the number does not coincide (a system would be provided for detecting potentially invalid combinations of operations on jobs which would report an exception to a user, col. 9, lines 60-63).

With respect to claim 26, Pepin et al disclose a controlling method according to claim 20, further comprising a delete information inputting step for information for deleting the print data from which the desired print processing is effected in said print processing step from said storing portion (touchscreen 62 of Fig. 6 has a provision for printing and deleting a job to be processed), and wherein, before execution of said print processing step, the information is inputted in said delete information inputting step (the information is selected as a setting in Job Ticket 150 of touchscreen 62 in Fig. 6).

With respect to claim 27, Pepin et al disclose a controlling method according to claim 20, further comprising a number inputting step for inputting information for printing the print data by a required number (A "Quantity" feature is shown in Job Ticket 150), and wherein a reading operation of said scanner device for reading the image original is effected by the number inputted in said number inputting step (an input number of "1"

will affect the reading operation of the scanning device. An input "Sides Imaged" quantity of 1 or 2 would also affect the reading operation of the scanning device).

With respect to claim 28, Pepin et al disclose an image processing system (printing system 2, see Fig. 1) in which an information apparatus, a server device for storing print data sent from said information processing apparatus and an image processing apparatus for effecting print processing of the data stored in said server device are interconnected via a network (e.g., remote devices (scanners, printers, etc.) from network 5, col. 5, line 63 – col. 6, line 1), wherein said server device comprises:

management means (a vehicle is provided to the user for creating placeholder instructions, col. 9, lines 41-51) for adding inherent discrimination (placeholder instructions) information to the print data sent from said information processing apparatus and for managing the print data; and

storing means (system memory 61, col. 7, lines 15-21) for storing the print data managed by said management means; and wherein said image processing apparatus comprises:

print data receiving means (printer section 8, col. 5, line 56) for receiving the print data stored in said storing means of said server device;

input means (controller section 7, col. 6, lines 64-67) for inputting designation information for arranging plural image originals read by a scanner device at different predetermined positions of the print data respectively (image input section 4 uses network 5 for remote scan services col. 5, lines 63-67, and col. 6, lines 6-9); and

print processing means (printer section 8, col. 5, line 56) for effecting print processing of the print data and the read plural image originals on the basis of the information inputted by said input means (job program parameters received from system control 54 of controller section 7, col. 6, lines 64-67).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Lett whose telephone number is (571)272-7464. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on (571)272-7471. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TJL

KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER